Dear Families

Welcome back! In less than a week everybody seems to be well and truly into the swing of the new school year and things couldn’t be travelling better as far as the children settling back into their classroom and school routines goes. Each year the transition from kindergarten to school for our new Foundation children seems to get easier and easier and this year’s group have once again settled beautifully into their new surroundings. It’s only been a couple of days for them and I already get the feeling that they no longer consider themselves new to this whole school caper. Moving around the classrooms I find it gratifying to see all the children happy and eagerly working on the tasks their teachers have set for them. I’ve got this feeling that it is going to be another fantastic year at St Robert’s. Our motto for the year is, A Happy Face in Every Space! If we continue to work together in an environment of support, encouragement and friendship we will most certainly make this happen.

Our first family social event will take place in the form of our traditional no fuss Fish ‘n’ Chip family picnic on our school oval on Wednesday 18th February, Ash Wednesday. As I mentioned it is a no fuss affair. Just bring along a blanket to throw on the ground, a few drinks for you and the kids and something to eat (preferably nothing meaty as it is Ash Wednesday and a good reason to stick with a feed of Fish and chips) Hope to see you there from 5 o’clock for a couple of hours.

You may have viewed a report that aired on “A Current Affair” last week regarding the staggering amount of wrapping and packaging that fill school yard rubbish bins each day. For some time now St Robert’s has been encouraging a “nude food” approach to school lunches and many children are now bringing their snacks, fruit and lunches in containers rather than wrappings. In an effort to further encourage this trend fewer bins are being placed in the school yard and teachers will continue to ensure that uneaten food and wrappers are returned to containers and taken home at the end of each day. If you haven’t considered adopting this strategy please give it some thought. The less waste we have the better the environment and provided your children’s containers are clearly labelled and returned home each day, the cheaper the cost.

PARENTS FOR PARENTS

Parents for Parents has been operating within our school community for some time now offering support and friendship to families who might just be in need of a helping hand. There is nothing flash or fancy about the concept and the group’s method of operation is not complicated. Put simply Parents for Parents is coordinated by a group of mums, (dads aren’t excluded it just so happens that to this point no dads have actually taken on a coordinators role) who pretty much just try and keep a look out for families who may be in need of some thing at some particular time. Further details provided later in this Newsletter. If you are interest in becoming a part of this network please complete and return the form on the back page.

God Bless you all and have a nice week, Mark.

ENHANCING OUR CATHOLIC IDENTITY

Pope’s 2015 World Peace Day message will focus on human trafficking

VATICAN CITY -- Human trafficking destroys the lives of millions of children, women and men each year, making it a real threat to peace, the Vatican said as it announced Pope Francis’ 2015 World Peace Day message would focus on the phenomenon.

"Slaves no more, but brothers and sisters" will be the theme for the Jan. 1, 2015, commemoration and for the message Pope Francis will write for the occasion, according to the Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace.

Pope Francis has called human trafficking "a crime against humanity" and "an open wound on the body of contemporary society, a scourge upon the body of Christ."
In describing why Pope Francis chose trafficking as the theme for World Peace Day 2015, a statement from the Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace said, "Many people think that slavery is a thing of the past," but "this social plague remains all too real in today's world" with child labor, forced prostitution, trafficking for organs and a variety of forms of forced labor.

Trafficking, which generates huge amounts of income for organized crime, threatens peace because it is based on a lack of recognition of the fundamental human dignity of its victims, the Vatican statement said. "Fraternity requires us to reject any inequality which would allow one person to enslave another," the statement said. "Our purpose is to build a civilization based on the equal dignity of every person without discrimination." The pope's full message for World Peace Day traditionally is released by the Vatican in mid-December and is sent, through Vatican diplomats, to the leaders of nations around the world.

As archbishop of Buenos Aires, the pope celebrated an annual Mass with the victims of trafficking, and soon after his election as pope in 2013, he asked the pontifical academies of sciences and of social sciences to study the problem of modern-day slavery and ways for the church to work with others to stop it.

In March, the Vatican, the Anglican Communion and others launched the Global Freedom Network. The initiative, based at the Pontifical Academy of Sciences, aims to prevent modern forms of slavery; to protect, rescue and rehabilitate victims; and to promote concrete measures that condemn or criminalize human trafficking.

The United Nations estimates 2.4 million people are trafficked at any given time and their exploitation generates $32 billion in annual profits for criminals. The Global Slavery Index estimates nearly 30 million people worldwide are living in slave-like conditions.

**CLASS PARENTS 2015**

An important notice outlining the 2015 Class Parent Program is attached to this Newsletter. Please read this notice and if you are interested in becoming involved make contact with your child’s Class Teacher. Hard copies are available from the rack outside the office.

**IMPORTANT HEALTH NOTICE**

This year we have a number of students who suffer serious health consequences when exposed to gastro viruses. For one of our Foundation students, any episode of gastro is of major concern, requiring hospital treatment and a protracted recovery. It can, and has been, a life-threatening event. To assist with risk management, we ask that:

- Children who have suffered from gastroenteritis **NOT be sent back to school until at least 24 hours** after their final bout of vomiting, or episode of diarrhoea, regardless of how well they seem, or how bored they are!
- Parents notify the school of any outbreak of gastroenteritis as soon as possible, so that we can pass this information on to families of high-risk students.

Thank-you for your ongoing cooperation with this important matter; we truly appreciate your support with our risk management and harm minimisation strategies. Julie Prendergast

**OUR SCHOOL NEWSLETTER – INFORMATION FOR NEW FAMILIES**

Our St Robert’s Newsletter is emailed to families each Wednesday afternoon. Some hard copies are also available from the rack just outside the office. For the first two weeks a printed copy will be given to each Foundation child and could I ask that Foundation parents complete the tear off slip below and return to the office to ensure that I have all the required email addresses. Also if any family has had a change to their email address could they please indicate on the form below. Finally if you are not receiving your newsletter on Wednesdays please let Nola know and I will follow up to discern what the problem may be.

---

Email Address for the Newsletter:

Name: .......................... Email Address

Child’s Name and Class: ..........................
AUSTRALIAN CATHOLICS MAGAZINE
Coming home today is the Summer 2015 issue of Australian Catholics Magazine. The focus of this edition is War and Peace with many informative articles. Hope you can find some time in your busy day to have a read.

SCHOOL STAFF COMMISSIONING
The teachers and staff from our four Primary Schools - St. Mary’s, St. Robert’s, Christ the King and St. Margaret’s will receive a special blessing and “commissioning” at the 11a.m. Mass on Sunday, February 15. We give prayerful thanks for their skill, commitment in preparing the children of our parish for the challenges of life and the education in Faith which they provide. All families are invited to attend.

Scholastic Book Club
This week your child will receive the 1st issue of the Scholastic book club. This is a book buying service offered to the school community; two issues are distributed each term. Participation is voluntary and there is no pressure to purchase anything. Last year Scholastic provided over $1500 in school rewards which is used to purchase resources for our library in part of our schools active participation. You will notice there is one brochure now, the year level brochure and the Extra brochure have now merged into one brochure. Your Scholastic parent co-ordinator Diana Skratulja

STUDENT AWARDS
Congratulations to the following students who have received certificates this week for outstanding work.

Gr F JP  Scarlett Peacock
Gr F JP  Dante Leslie
Gr 2CC  Meg Conheady
Gr 2CC  Daniel Lazzaro
Gr 3KH  Noah Caracella
Gr 3KH  Hannah Wicks
Gr 3NF  Millicent Eldridge
Gr 3 NF  Frederick Gill
Gr 5/6DB  Alexandra Durante
Gr 5/6DB  Flynn Wicks
Gr 5/6PB  For all the students who have made a great start to the year
Gr 5/6LO  To all my students for such a great start in Grade 5/6LO

BIRTHDAYS
The St Robert’s School community wish to congratulate the following children on the celebration of their birthday throughout January and this week. Happy Birthday to:

2nd January  Noah Bily
3rd January  Indiah Madden
4th January  Thomas Ryan
7th January  Cooper Williams
8th January  Henry Beggs
9th January  Oscar Cosic
11th January Hamish Vautier
13th January Seamus Ryan
15th January Adam Saric
19th January Mekah Morrissy

3rd January  Jack Northey
22nd January Noah Trethowan
23rd January Lachlan Capon
24th January Mark Kim
27th January Lucas Skoko
28th January Samuel Gillespie
29th January Finn Alsop
30th January Olivia Wicks
1st February Ava Ciach
2nd February Sam Bowden
4th February Adam Matthews
5th February Harrison Clair
6th February William Bourke
8th February Henri North
10th February Eleanor Carroll

GAVAN PODBURY SEMINARS GEELOONG-
ST PATRICK’S CUP
The Gavan Podbury Seminars Geelong – St Patrick’s Cup: will be held on Saturday 14th March, 2015. Try your luck with the horses and if you don’t win, you might just win the free return trip for two to DUBLIN, IRELAND, courtesy GEELOONG TRAVEL, cnr Regent and High Sts
Belmont. Just complete the coupon in the racebook and wait for the draw on the day.

Enjoy a three course meal in air-conditioned comfort from $60. Alternatively, hire your own umbrella with table and 10 chairs from $170 or marquee from $190 (this is a discounted price for parishioners). Entry from $12 conc; children free under 17. Contact Catherine Moon for tickets on 0409 007913.

We are also looking for a few more race sponsors and/or businesses to advertise in the race book. If you have a business you would like to promote, contact Catherine Moon on 0409 007913.

Thanks Annice Lappin, St Patrick's Race Club Committee Member

SINGING LESSONS WITH REBECCA HAY – BELLA VOCE

Once again Singing Lessons with Bella Voce – Rebecca Hay will be available for your child. Private lessons are available to children from Grade 3 -6 and will be aimed to build confidence through singing. Each child is unique, so lessons will be informative, helpful and fun, using techniques to inspire the individual students to enjoy singing and develop at their pace. Exams will not be a focus, but rather an option. For more information please collect a form from the office.

BAREENA BOWLING CLUB

Newtown’s Bareena Bowling Club’s very popular Friday night Crackerjack bowls runs from 30th January to 27th February. Teams of 2, 3 or 4 players, alternatively individuals will be allocated a team. Starts at 6:00pm and the cost is $10 per night which includes BBQ. Contact John on 0419 563 199.

JUNIOR FOOTBALL AND NETBALL REGISTRATION DAY FOR SEASON 2015

Registration Day for Season 2015

Sunday 22nd February 2015

10am to 2pm at the clubrooms

For further details please contact:

Football:
Heather Harris : 0438 393 599
hdnharris@bigpond.com.au
Brian Mudge : 0447 770 648
club@newtownchilwell.com.au

Netball:
Wendy Castle: wendy.e.castle@hotmail.com.au
Friday Night U9 & U11 Netball Coordinator -
Lee Doherty 0430 369 600 or
lee.doherty@bigpond.com

Auskick: Greg Wood 0412 026 477
Details of training commencement for both Junior Football and Netball are available on our club website
www.newtownchilwellfc.sportingpulse.net

HOT SHOT TENNIS

ANZ Hot Shot Tennis is specially designed for kids. Smaller courts, racquets and softer tennis ball equals:
Fun – Players are actively engaged, excited and motivated to participate
Play – Players think and make decisions about meaningful tennis situations
Social – Players build social skills such as working cooperatively with a partner, building friendships, encouraging teammates and showing sportsmanship.
Skills – Players have plenty of opportunities to improve their tennis skills.

Contact: Mark on 0416 288 956 or collect a brochure from the office.

**DATES TO REMEMBER**

### FEBRUARY
- **Fri 6th**: Swimming Trials Qualifying students Gr 3-6
- **Thur 12th**: Year 4 BYOD Parent Meeting, 7pm, St Robert’s Community Centre
- **Fri 13th**: Grade Six Leadership Day, Guest Speaker, activities in St Robert’s Community Centre

### MARCH
- **Fri 6th**: Division Swimming Qualifying students
- **Fri 13th**: St Robert’s Cross Country, Gr 4-6 East Gardens, all students
- **Fri 20th & Fri 27th**: Grades 5 & 6

---

**School Advisory Board Committee Members**

- Fr Kevin Dillon  frkd@stmarysgeelong.com.au  
  Website:  www.srnnewtown.catholic.edu.au
- Mark Soldani  marks@srnewtown.catholic.edu.au
- Anita Thomas  pryan40@bigpond.com.au  
- Fiona Fitzgerald  fiona@ggs.vic.edu.au
- Angela De Grandi  dominic.degrandi@bigpond.com
- Sonia Mackay  mackays@7mail.com
- Kym Brooks  kymgibson@ncable.net.au
- Katey O’Sullivan  kateyos@bigpond.com
- Louise Clatworthy  the.clat@bigpond.com

---

**CLASS PARENTS 2015**

Dear Parents,

With the start of the new school year and new routines gathering momentum it is time to once again turn our attention to our class parents program for 2015.

For those of you who are new to the school or for those who may not have a complete understanding of how the Class Parents program operates at St Robert’s, here is how it works in a nutshell.

All teachers value the wide range of support parents give them. Already a number of you have signed up as class parent helpers and many have been involved in a number of sporting events that have dotted the events calendar already this year. Each year teachers look for up to two parents from their class to assist them in the general organisation of extra curricula class activities and events that might require the need for parent help. This could be to cook, go on an excursion, help with the costumes around concert time, coordinate a fete activity or organise a social get together for all the mums and dads from the class.

Those taking on the role of a Class Parent act as a liaison between the class teacher and mums and dads, informing them of any particular need or upcoming event. Generally this requires the class parent to collect contact details, phone and email, which can provide an easy means of communication between school and home. Parents not wishing to provide such details are under no obligation to do so.

This year it will again be a requirement for class parents to either attend the Parents and Friends meeting or arrange for a representative from the class to attend the meeting. It is our hope that this will continue our efforts to encourage greater communication between our Parents and Friends Association and our classes and provide a means of informing parents of things the P&F are doing for the children and provide insight into what things can be done to help support the needs of all the children across the different classes.

Once the Class Parents have been established, class teachers will make a point of keeping in contact with their class parent on a regular and mutual needs basis.

Anyone who is interested in becoming a class parent should make contact with their child’s class teacher at their earliest convenience.

God Bless,  
Mark.
ST ROBERTS NEWTOWN PRIMARY

SUPER SUMMER SPORTS
Super Summer Sports allows your child to play a range of dynamic and active sports over the 7 week program; these include Cricket, Basketball, Hockey & Crazy games! This multi-sport program will not only provide an essential base for your child's motor skills, but will also help build confidence and co-ordination, all in a fun & enjoyable environment.

WHEN: Tuesday
COMMENCING: 10/1/2015
CONCLUDING: 24/2/2015
TIME: 3:40pm – 4:40pm
YEAR LEVELS: P – 6

DYNAMIC DANCE (HIP HOP)
Over 7 weeks students will have the opportunity to move, groove, spin & bop to the sounds of hip hop beats alongside our very experienced dance instructor. Kids will have a fantastic time learning the new moves in our high intensity, excitement filled dance environment.

WHEN: Thursday
COMMENCING: 12/1/2015
CONCLUDING: 26/3/2015
TIME: 1:15pm–2:15pm
YEAR LEVELS: P – 6

COST: $70 - Enrol online (www.kellysports.com.au/events)
VENUE: St Roberts Newtown Primary School

SIBLINGS ONLY PAY $60 EACH
CONTACT US TO ARRANGE

ONLINE ENROLMENT

To enrol, please visit www.kellysports.com.au/events or fill out the below enrolment form & send with a cheque or credit card details to: PO BOX 2163, Werribee VIC 3030.
Do not leave enrolment forms at the school office.

ENROLMENT FORM

☐ Super Summer Sports (Tuesday)  ☐ Dynamic Dance (Thursday)

School: ____________________________ Year Level: ____________________________
Name: ____________________________ D.O.B.: ____________________________
Address: ____________________________ Post Code: ____________________________
Phone: ____________________________ Mobile/Work: ____________________________
Email: ____________________________ Medical Conditions: ____________________________

At the completion of after school clinics, does your child? ☐ Go to after care ☐ Get collected

Parents’ consent
I hereby authorise Kelly Sports to act on my behalf should my child require medical attention, and release Kelly Sports Geelong from any liability for injury incurred by my child at Kelly Sports programmes.
☐ I authorise the use by Kelly Sports of any photographs or video image of my child or legal charge for any reasonable purpose.

Parent/Caregiver name: ____________________________ Signature: ____________________________
Amount Paid: $ ____________________________ Credit card payment: ☐ Visa ☐ Mastercard
Card Number: ____________________________ Expiry Date: ____________________________
Security Code (last 3 digits): ____________________________ EFT Details: Account Name: Kelly Sports Greater Geelong
Account No: 1097 4357

[Additional information and contact details]